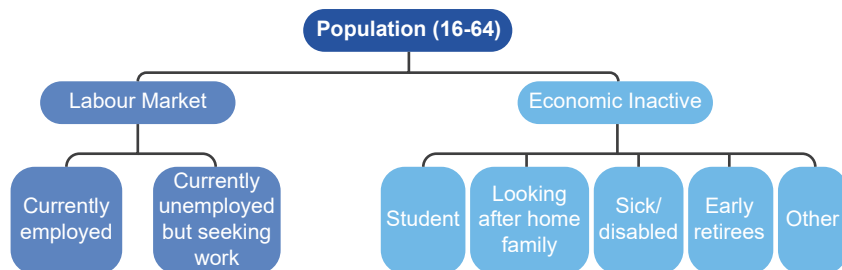


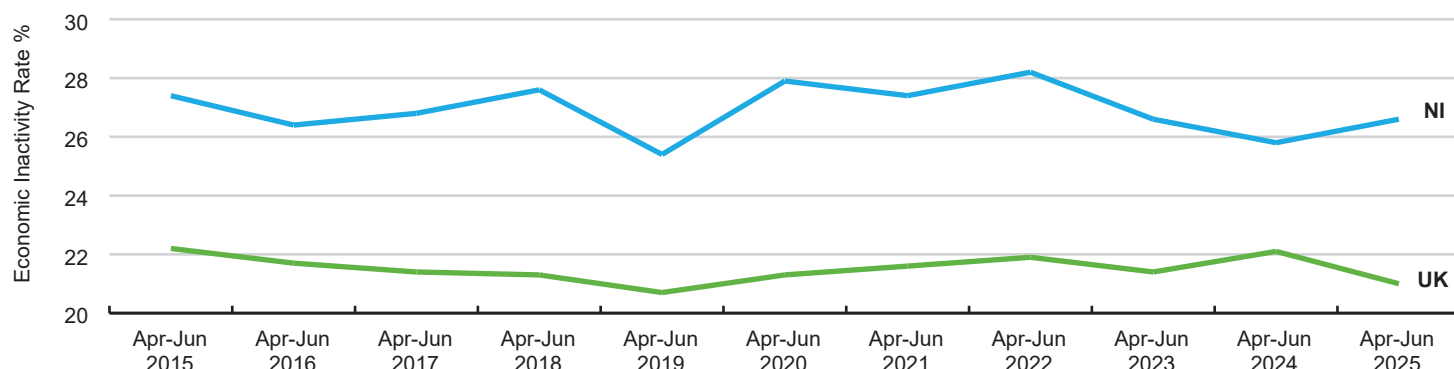
ECONOMIC INACTIVITY 2025

Source: Labour Force Survey, NISRA & ONS (August 2025)

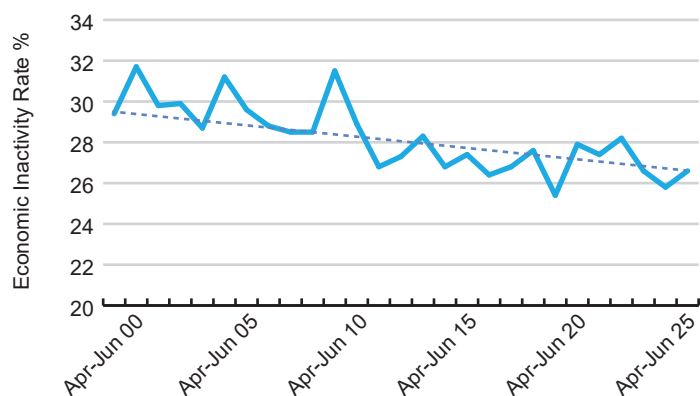
The economic inactivity rate is the percentage of the population (aged 16-64) who are not involved in the labour market and are not currently seeking employment. It includes all those who are looking after a home full-time, are sick or disabled, are students and are early retirees.



Economic Inactivity NI vs UK 2015-2025



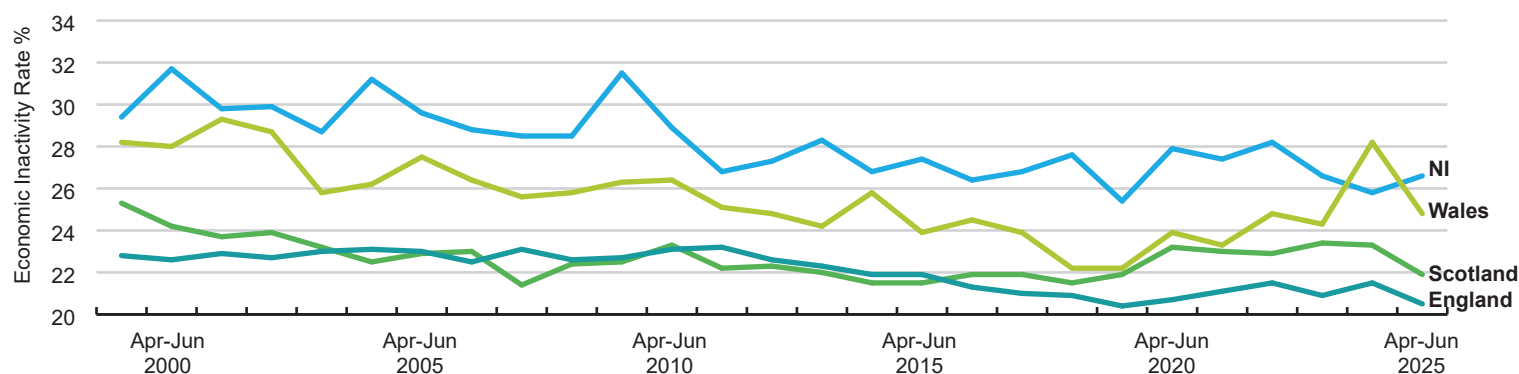
Economic Inactivity NI 1999-2025



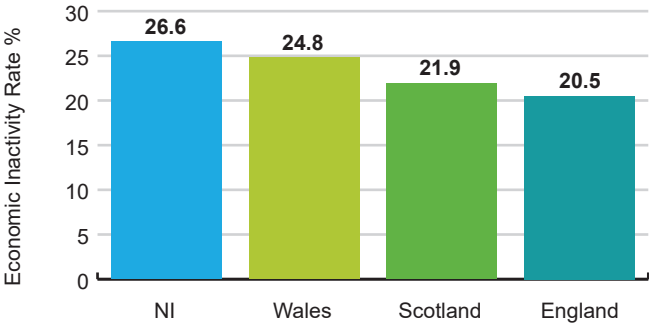
Northern Ireland's economic inactivity rate has historically been consistently higher than the UK average. While still higher than the UK average, economic inactivity in NI has recorded a consistent downward trend over the last 25 years, falling from 29.4% in June 1999 to 26.6% in June 2025.

NI economic inactivity remains high relative to the UK average and higher than any of the other three countries.

Economic Inactivity in UK Countries 1999-2025



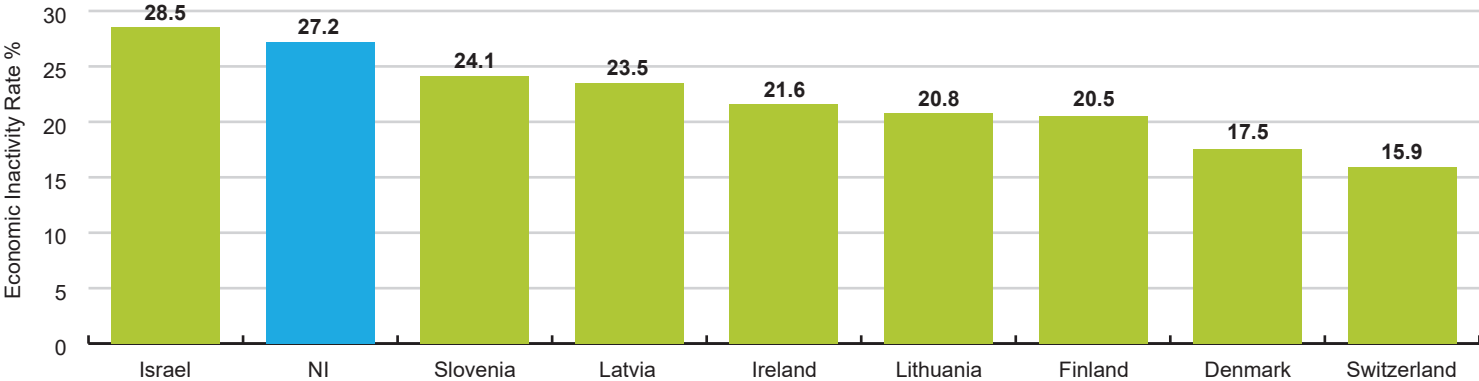
Economic Inactivity (16-64) Apr - Jun 2025



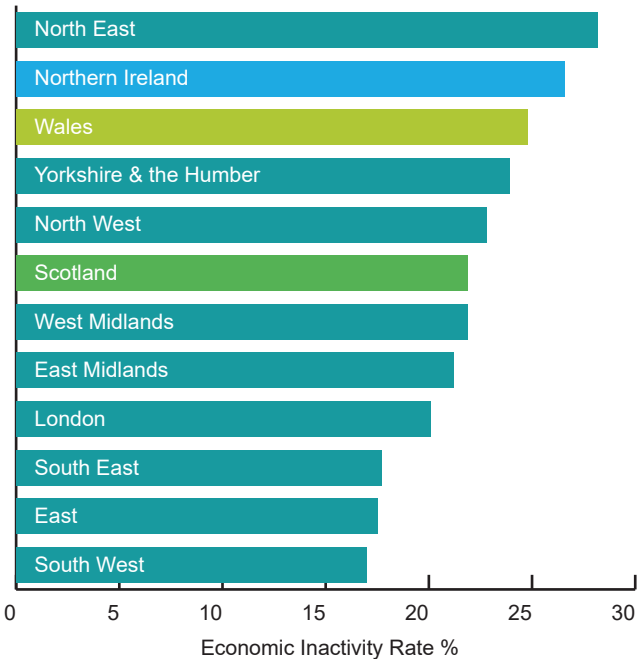
The NI economic inactivity rate is the highest among the four constituent UK countries.

NI has relatively high economic inactivity rate compared to other similar small advanced economies and is 26% higher than the Irish Republic (27.2% Vs 21.6%).

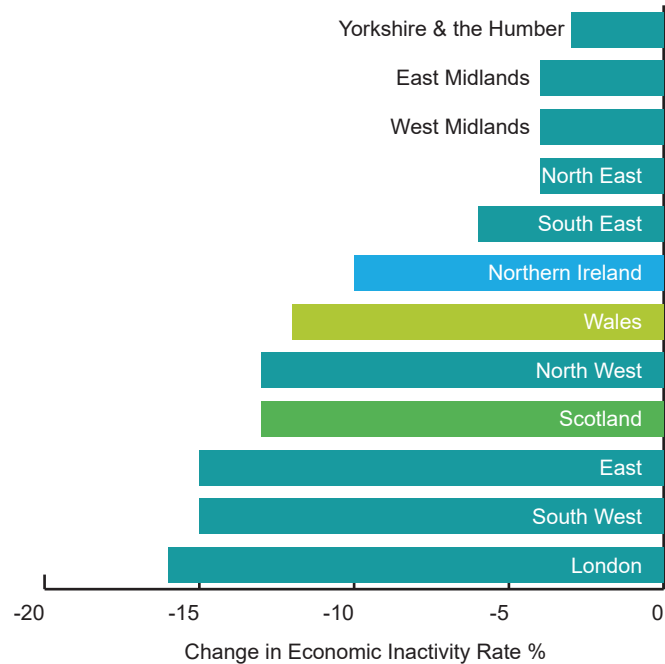
International Comparisons of Economic Inactivity Q1 2025



Economic Inactivity by Region Apr - Jun 2025



Economic Inactivity by Region Change Apr - Jun 1999 to Apr - Jun 2025



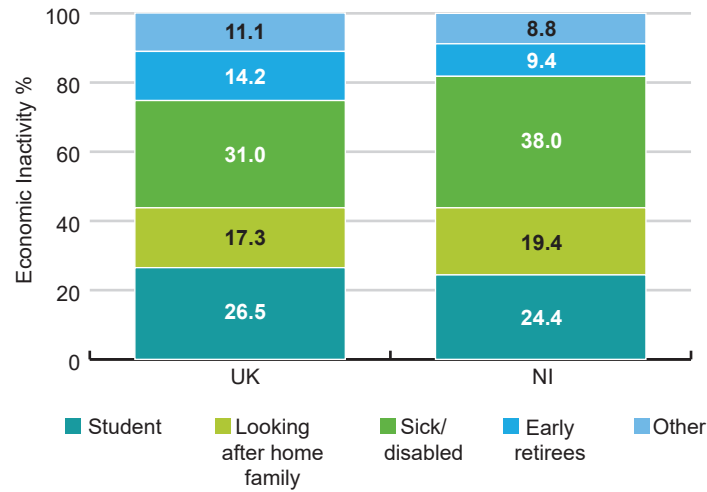
NI economic inactivity is the second highest among the 12 UK regions, almost 10 percentage points ahead of the South West of England.

The Northern Ireland economic inactivity rate has recorded the seventh highest decline among the UK regions over the past 26 years.

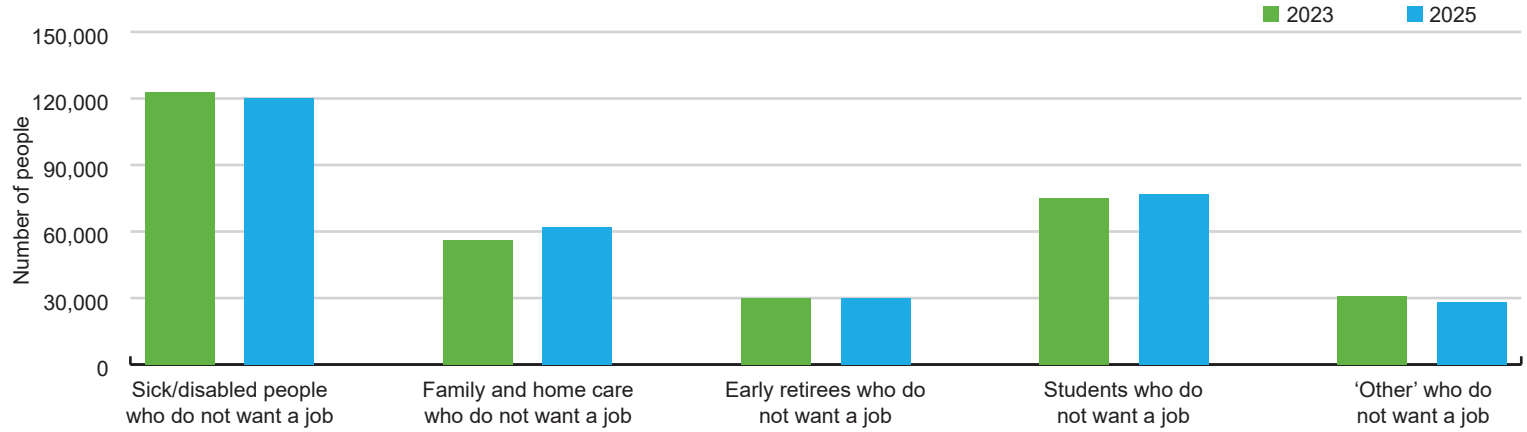
Reasons for Economic Inactivity NI vs UK Apr-Jun 2025

NI has a notably larger percentage of people out of the workforce due to sickness/disability.

- People who are economically inactive due to sickness or disability account for 38.0% (31.0% UK) of economically inactive and 10.1% (6.6% UK) of the total NI population (16-64).
- People who are economically inactive due to family and home care account for 19.4% (17.3% UK) of economically inactive and 5.2% (3.7% UK) of the NI population (16-64).
- Students account for 24.4% (26.5% UK) of economically inactive and 6.5% (5.6% UK) of the NI population (16-64).



Reasons for Economic Inactivity in NI Apr-Jun 2023 vs Apr-Jun 2025



The number of economically inactive in NI due to sickness/disability has decreased by -2.4% over the last two years.

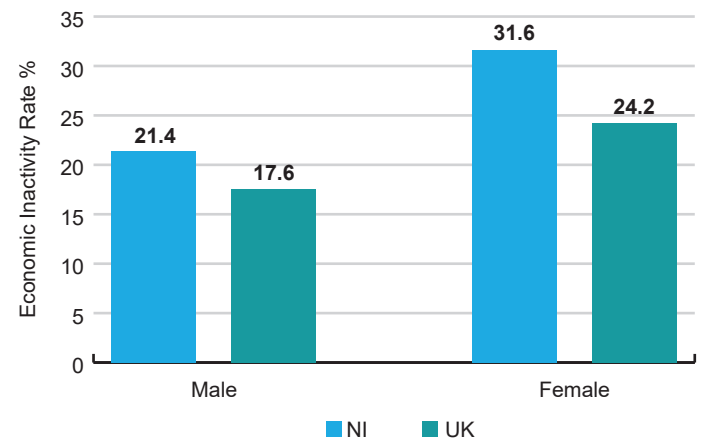
The number of economically inactive in NI due to family and home care have increased by 10.7% and the number of economically inactive students has increased by 2.7%.

Economic Inactivity by Gender (16-64) NI vs UK Apr-Jun 2025

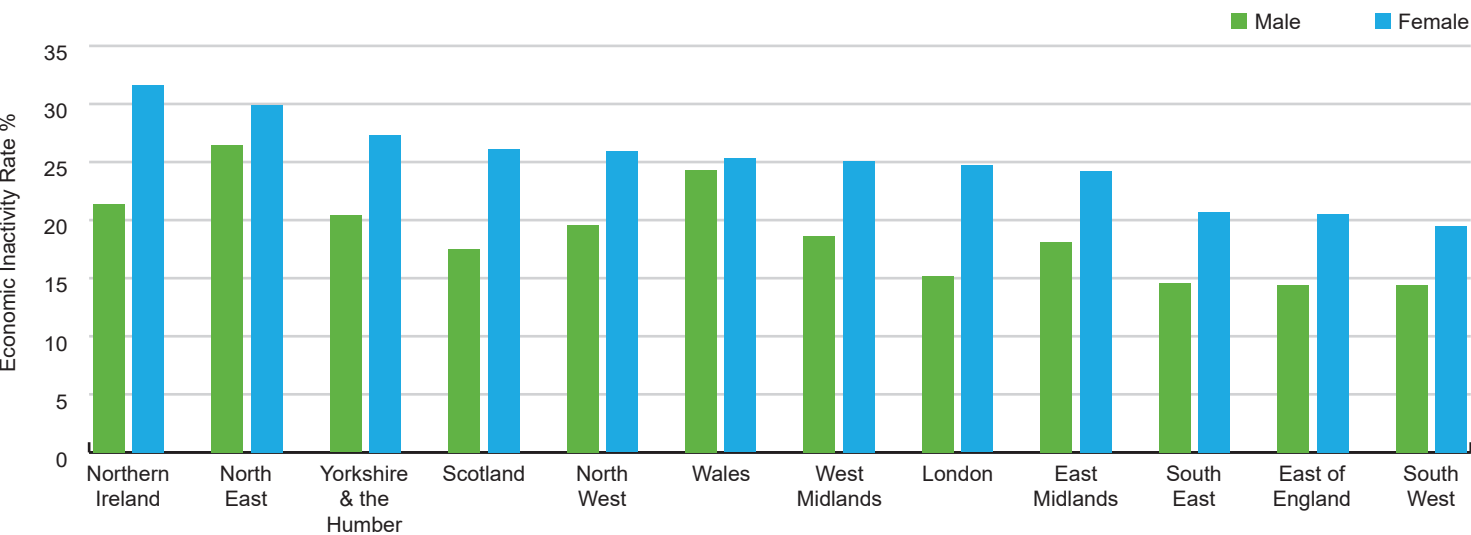
The gap between the NI and the UK economic inactivity rates differs by gender.

- The NI inactivity rate for men was 22% higher than the equivalent UK rate in Apr-Jun 2025 (21.4% Vs 17.6%).
- The NI inactivity rate for women was 31% higher than the equivalent UK rate in Apr-Jun 2025 (31.6% Vs 24.2%).

The chart below looks at inactivity by gender and region and shows that economic inactivity among women in NI is the highest among the 12 UK regions at 31.6% and 2nd highest for men at 21.4%.



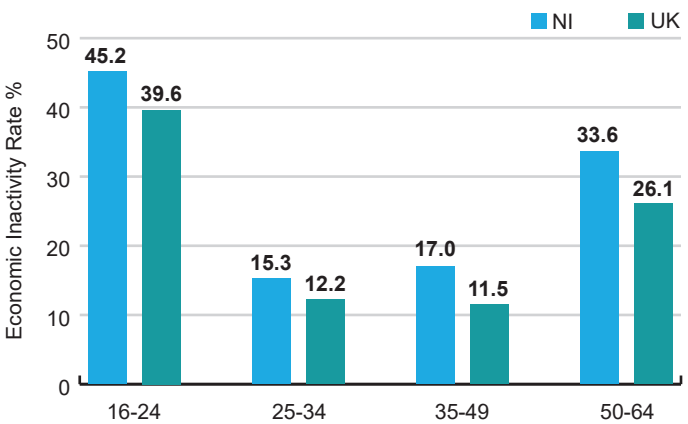
Economic Inactivity by Gender and Region Apr-Jun 2025



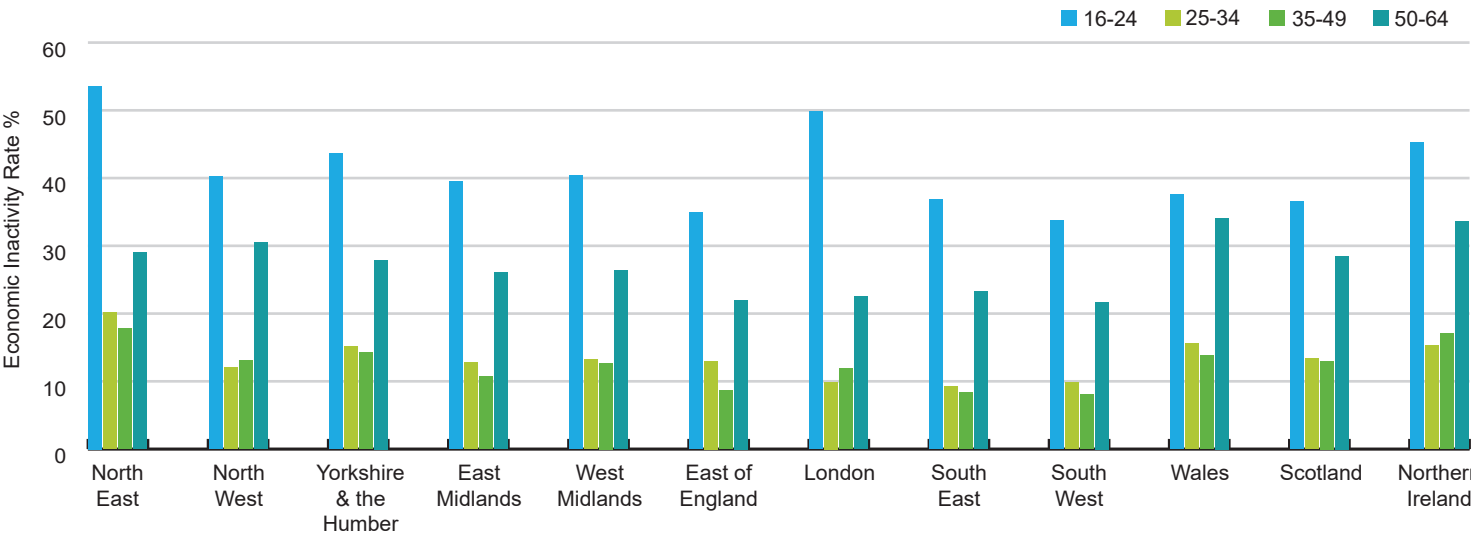
Economic Inactivity by Age NI vs UK Apr-Jun 2025*

Economic inactivity in NI is notably higher than the UK average among those aged 25 to 49. While overall the NI economic inactivity rate was 27% higher than the UK rate in Apr-Jun 2025, among 25 to 34 year olds it is 20% higher and among 35 to 49 year olds it is 32% higher.

Among the 12 UK regions, NI has the third highest inactivity rate among 25 to 34 year olds, after the North East and Wales and the second highest inactivity rate among 35 to 49 year olds.

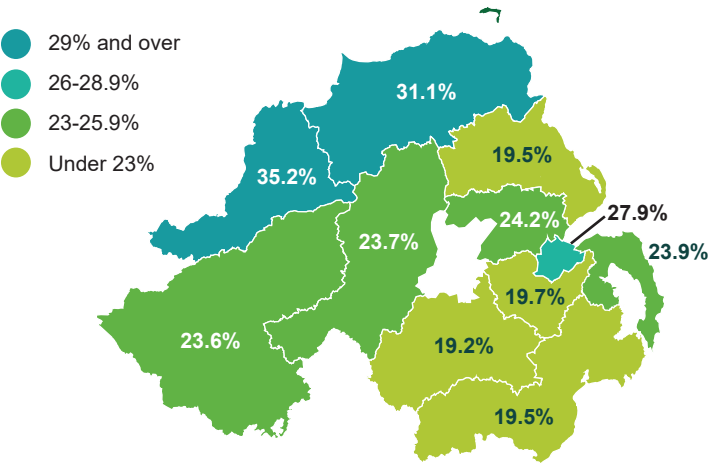


Economic Inactivity by Age and Region Apr-Jun 2025*



*The data in these charts is not seasonally adjusted

Economic Inactivity by Council Area 2024

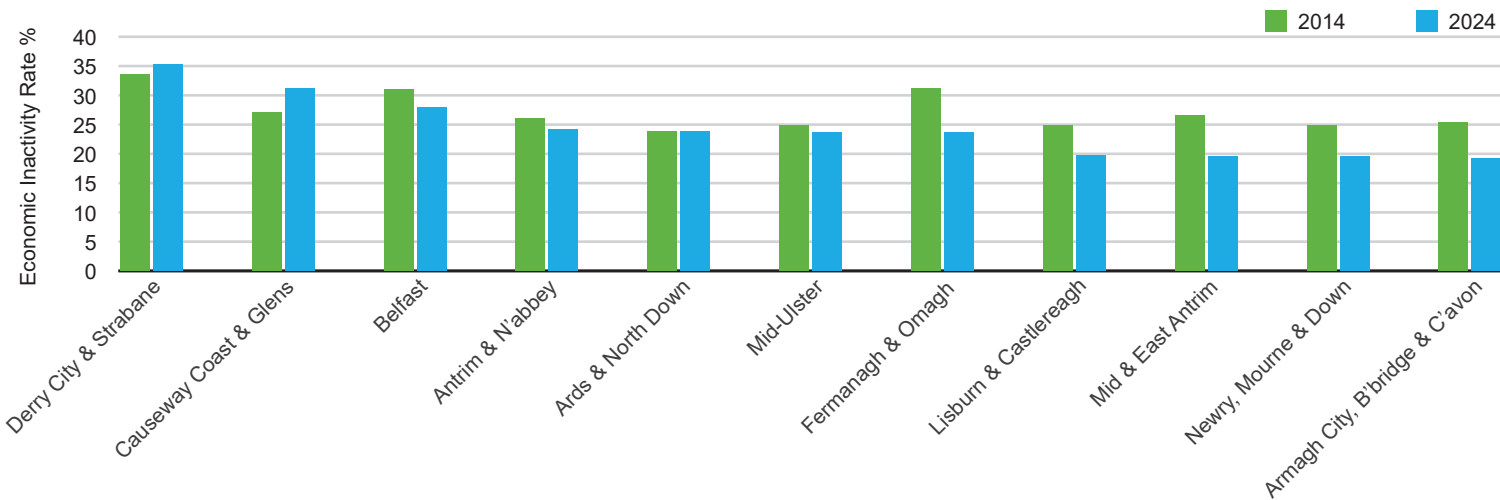


Among DCAs economic inactivity is the highest in Derry City and Strabane at 35.2% and lowest in Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon at 19.2%. Economic inactivity in the two North West DCAs is above 30%.

The largest decline in economic inactivity was recorded in Fermanagh and Omagh which has declined from 31.1% in 2014 to 23.6% in 2024.

Among PCAs Foyle has the highest economic inactivity at 37.0% while the lowest is Newry and Armagh at 17.2%.

Economic Inactivity Rate by Council 2014 and 2024



Economic Inactivity by Parliamentary Constituency Area 2024

